

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS



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FEDERAL HUNTING SEASONS ON  
WILD FOWL TO BE SHORTER

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Migratory Bird Regulations Amended  
to Give Greater Protection  
Throughout the Country  
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Regulations increasing the protection of migratory birds, recommended recently by the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, will affect hunters in all parts of the United States. President Hoover on March 17 approved amendments to the migratory bird regulations adopted by Secretary of Agriculture Hyde to carry out the recommendations. The chief amendment that affects all parts of the country is one that shortens the open seasons 15 days on ducks, geese (including brant), coots, and jacksnipe. Hereafter, the seasons on these birds will start 15 days later in the northern parts of the country and close 15 days earlier in the South. One effect of this amendment will be to prohibit the shooting of ducks, geese (including brant), coots, and jacksnipe in September in any State. The shortened seasons are prescribed because of the increased natural hazards the birds are experiencing in reduced breeding, feeding, and resting areas, brought about in part as a result of unprecedented drought the last two seasons.

A further amendment of general effect regulates the hour at which hunters can begin shooting on the opening day of the season in each locality. Hereafter it will be illegal to hunt migratory game birds before noon on the opening day.

Other general provisions are concerned with decoys, baiting, and bag limits. Not more than 10 live goose decoys may hereafter be used or shot over at any one gunning stand, blind, or floating device. Baiting for mourning doves with salt or with wheat or other grains will not be permitted, and it is illegal to take these birds on or over areas so baited. The bag limits on those geese for which open seasons are provided are changed by including brant with geese and limiting the total of all geese (including brant) to 4 a day and 8 in possession.

The remaining amendments have to do with particular species or with seasons over specified areas.

The season on Ross's and cackling geese will be closed throughout the entire range of these species in this country and the close season on snow geese is established in all States bordering on the Atlantic Ocean.

In New York, the season on the woodcock is so drawn that in the southern part of the State, including Long Island, it will run from October 15 to November 14, and elsewhere in the State the season will be limited to the month of October.

Minor changes affect rails and gallinules (except coot) in the States of New York and Washington, where local adjustments are made to slightly reduce the seasons; and mourning doves in Florida, where the season will open on November 20, except in the three southernmost counties, where the season remains unchanged.

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